

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO

COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISR 12 APR 51

SUBJECT New Personal Documents

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1. Although many Polish government officials, including General Stanislaw Radkiewicz, the Minister of Security, had declared there was need to establish a new system of personal documents for the Polish people, no action had been taken in this regard until recently, and the identity card issued by the Germans during the war is still the chief means of identification carried by every Polish citizen. Shortly before Christmas 1950, the government proposed to the Sejm, the Polish Parliament, that a new system of identification documents be set up, and preparations are now under way. It is probable that the census which was completed on 3 December 1950 was part of the program for providing Poles with new documents.
2. Under the new law the civilian population has been divided into various classes, each of which will be given special types of documents. Though these documents will look alike, they will be filled out in different ways in order to enable the controlling officer to know what the issuing authority thought of the owners of the documents. A bearer of the identification card, the "Dowod-Tozsamosci", will not know the meaning of the markings on his card, which will be different in various sections of the country. At the present time all personnel of the army, the navy, the WOP and the KBW, but not the UB, have been given a document known as "Legitymacja Wojkowa", which is filled out in the same way as the civilian card. Markings in various documents are not alike for all individuals, even for persons with the same type of military or civilian specialty. It is believed that the markings indicate both the region of Poland from which the soldier originates and the opinion of the issuing authority about his reliability. It is usually not difficult to learn of such opinions since Politruks are not hesitant to threaten officers when they do not trust. It is said that in the case of unreliable soldiers paragraph 18 of their books is filled out, but these books contain other markings, including numbers, letters and symbols, which have no meaning to the bearers but which are understood by the controlling officer.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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